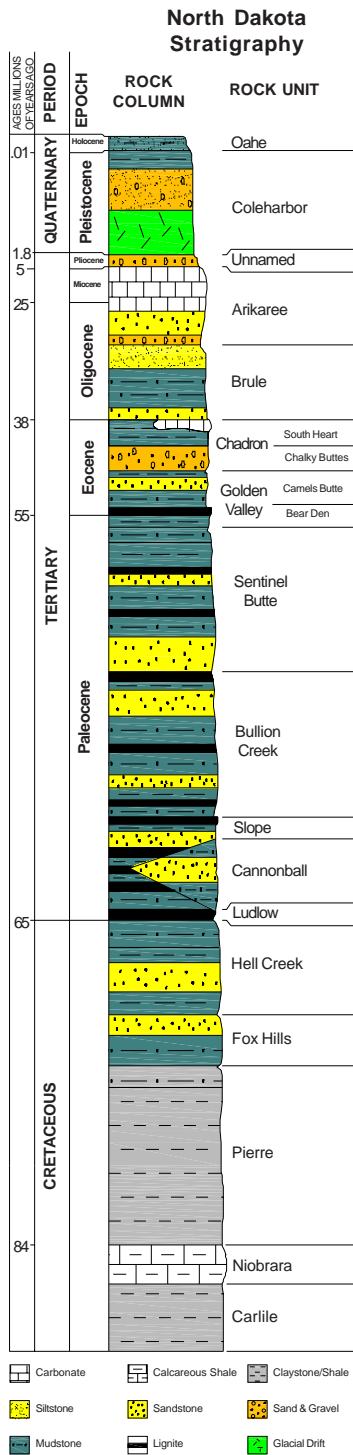


Amebelodon



Common Name:

Shovel tusk gomphothere

Classification:

Class: Mammalia

Order: Proboscidea

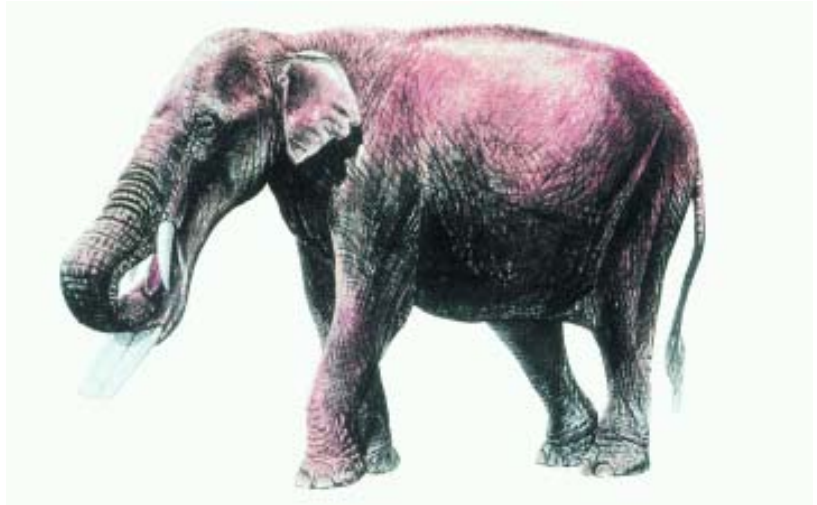
Family: Gomphotheriidae



Tooth of the elephant-like mammal, *Amebelodon*. 200 mm wide. Pliocene? Emmons County. State Historical Society of North Dakota Collection.

Description:

Amebelodon was one of the elephant-like animals that had “shovel tusks.” In size and appearance they were similar to the modern elephant and grew to heights of 10 feet. The skull and tusks of *Amebelodon* were however quite different than the living elephant. They had side by side, flattened, and elongated tusks projecting from their lower jaws. These tusks extended for about 3 feet and formed a spadelike edge. The tusks were used for scooping plants from the bottoms of ponds.



Amebelodon. Painting courtesy of Simon and Schuster Publishing Company.



Locations where fossils have been found